

Editorial Department.

DR. EDWARD H. CLARKE.

ON the evening of November 30th, Dr. Edward H. Clarke, one of the editors of this JOURNAL, closed his earthly career, dying from cancer of the rectum. For two years or more he bore his sufferings patiently, spoke hopefully, and though often in great pain, continued to take an active interest in professional studies.

He was born at Norton, Mass., in 1820. His father was a clergyman, the Rev. Pitt Clarke; his mother was Mary Jones Stimson, and Dr. Clarke was her youngest son. He graduated at Harvard in 1841, first in his class, and received the degree of M. D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1846. In 1850 he assisted in starting the Boylston Medical School in Boston, for the purpose of affording medical students the advantages of a more thorough education. In 1855, he was appointed professor of *materia medica* at Harvard, and held that position until 1872, when he resigned. He was then chosen one of the board of overseers of the University, and held that office until his death.

He paid much attention to diseases of the ear, and was at first almost, if not quite, alone in that branch of medicine in Boston, but probably his greatest success was obtained in connection with obscure diseases of the nervous system.

As a physician, Dr. Clarke gained an eminence in the community such as few attain; he won the confidence and attachment of his patients, and his opinion was frequently sought in consultation by his colleagues. With an accurate knowledge of diseases and the action of drugs, he had also an intimate acquaintance with human nature.

As an instructor he was a favorite with the students. He had the rare faculty of giving interest to a comparatively dry and, of itself, uninteresting subject. His lectures were carefully prepared; his habit of making notes of new drugs, or of newly discovered properties in old drugs, and filing them away, gave him the power to make his lectures fresh and interesting. But not only drugs claimed his attention; he also considered the effects of food, clothing, ventilation and bathing.

His writings have not been numerous, the one which has obtained the widest circulation and excited the most discussion, both in this country and in England, is of comparatively recent date, "Sex in Education." After this followed "The Building of a Brain." During his sickness, he wrote an article as a contribution to the centennial history of American medicine. During the latter part of his sickness, he was engaged in psychological studies, in which he was much interested, having, during his extensive practice, seen many cases exhibiting curious psychological phenomena. Of more strictly medical papers, there have been comparatively few from his pen; one was a small brochure, written in conjunction with Dr. Robert Amory, upon the Action of the Bromides.

We close this brief notice of our colleague with a word of regret that it devolves upon us so soon to chronicle his decease; and tender sympathy for the daughter, so lately motherless, now doubly orphaned.

In the October number of the *British and Foreign Medico-Chirurgical Review*, its publishers insert a notice of its discontinuance, after a distinguished career, and in which they announce the opinion that the "day for quarterlies has gone by, and in the face of the daily and weekly periodicals, a quarterly, with its thoughtful articles and well-digested reviews, is no longer appreciated as formerly."

Much has been made of this statement by certain weekly medical periodicals. But we are not convinced of its correctness. We have no doubt but that a sufficiently large field re-